

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

323 Reform St. N.  
NYA, MN. 55368

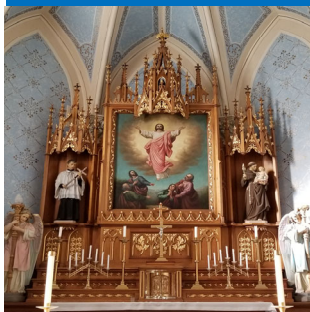
## PASTOR

Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI

OFFICE ... ..952-856-1050  
frabraham@st-bernard-cologne.org

# ST. BERNARD CHURCH

212 Church Street E.  
Cologne, MN. 55322



Website: [www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org](http://www.ascensionstbernardparishes.org)

### Parish Office Hours:

Mon., Wed., & Fri. 10am-2pm

Office Phone: 952-467-3351

### Business Administrator:

Virginia Hanson ...952-777-0110

[busadmin@ascensionnya.org](mailto:busadmin@ascensionnya.org)

### Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-777-0111

[bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org](mailto:bookkeeper@ascensionnya.org)

### Parish Office Hours:

Tues 10am-2pm & Fri. 8:30am-2pm

Office Phone: 952-466-2031

### Business Administrator:

Virginia Hanson .....952-856-1051

[busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org](mailto:busadmin@st-bernard-cologne.org)

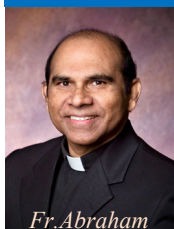
### Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sarah Smith...952-856-1052

[bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org](mailto:bookkeeper@st-bernard-cologne.org)



## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – December 28 & 29, 2024



Fr. Abraham

### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Family is the foundation of civil society, providing a home where love, joy, and sorrow are shared. Without family, humanity would be homeless. It is within the family that we find support, and it is where we live, love, and grow together.

Each year, on the Sunday following Christmas, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. This feast invites us to reflect on the quality of our own family life in the light of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. While we might imagine their family life was free from struggles and challenges, the reality was different. The Holy Family experienced both joyful and difficult moments, showing us that faith, trust, and love are vital to overcoming life's challenges.

Mary faced an extraordinary challenge when she became pregnant with Jesus. The idea of a child being born without a natural father was unheard of, and her acceptance of this miraculous situation required deep trust in God's promises. She said, "May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Joseph, a just and compassionate man, could have rejected Mary when he discovered her pregnancy, but instead, he prayed for guidance. He accepted the divine message to take Mary as his wife and welcome the child as the promised Messiah. Joseph's faith and willingness to trust in God serve as a model for all of us.

Despite the challenges, Mary and Joseph's love and trust in God remained unshaken. They endured hardship, such as the uncomfortable birth of Jesus in a stable, and Mary experienced the sorrow of witnessing her son's death on the cross. Through it all, their faith and prayer were their sources of strength. The Holy Family shows us that prayer is essential for enduring struggles and finding solutions.

The Gospel of Luke tells us that Jesus was obedient to his parents and grew in wisdom, favor, and stature before God and man (Luke 2:51-52). Jesus, the greatest person to ever walk the earth, learned many of his virtues from his loving, faithful parents. This highlights the importance of a family's role in shaping the character and values of children.

As Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it." Parents must create a Christian atmosphere in the home where children can witness the practice of Christian values. If children are grounded in these values, they can face the world with confidence and strength. A family rooted in Christ is one that is unshakeable, no matter what challenges arise.

A Christian family is one where Christ is at the center, and love abounds. When one family member claims to be the center of attention, the unity of the family begins to break down. The family - father, mother, and children - forms the world's greatest team, and the strength of this team lies in sacrificial love. Mutual respect, whether between husband and wife or parents and children, is essential for a harmonious home.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph lived in peace with one another and with God. Their example of love, faith, and mutual respect shows us how to live in peace and unity within our own families. Let us entrust our families, and all families around the world, to the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

I wish you and your loved ones a Blessed **Feast of the Holy Family** and a Joyous and Prosperous **New Year 2025**.

**Rosary Intentions:** "In Thanksgiving for all the Graces of this past year."

Yours in Christ, Fr. Abraham Kochupurackal CMI, Pastor

**Parish Mission Statement** We, the family of St. Bernard and Ascension, united through Baptism, redeemed by Christ's death and resurrection, and strengthened by his Word and Eucharist, are called to follow him by nurturing a rich sacramental and spiritual life, supporting strong Catholic faith formation and fostering fellowship and community.



**CALENDAR FOR ASCENSION AND ST. BERNARDS' PARISHES**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Dec. 30</b>		<b>No Mass:</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Dec. 31</b>	<b>ASC.</b>	<b>Solemnity of Mary: 6:15pm</b> <b>*No Adoration at Ascension*</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Jan. 1</b>	<b>ST. B.</b>	<b>Solemnity of Mary: 9:00am</b> <b>HDO</b> <b>*No Adoration at St. Bernard*</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Jan. 2</b>		<b>Mass: 8:00am</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Jan. 3</b>	<b>ASC.</b>	<b>Mass: 8:00am</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Jan. 4</b>	<b>ST. B.</b> <b>ST. B.</b>	<b>Confession: 4:30-4:50pm</b> <b>Mass: 5:00pm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Jan. 5</b>	<b>ASC.</b> <b>ASC.</b> <b>ST. B.</b>	<b>Mass: 8:00am</b> <b>Donut Sunday</b> <b>Mass: 10:00am</b>

**What is going on in our Parishes and in the Community**



**The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Mass Schedule: Ascension- December 31st 6:15pm St. Bernard- January 1st 9:00am**

**There will be no Adoration at Ascension or St. Bernard on December 24th and 25th and December 31st and January 1st.**

**Tuesday December 31st the Parish Office at St. Bernard will open 10am-Noon. The Ascension Office will not be open on December 31st. The Office will be closed January 1st.**

**School of Charism Discovery Tuesdays, January 28-April 1, 7-9 p.m., Our Lady of Grace, Edina**

Father Michael Becker, vicar of charisms, is hosting the School of Charism Discovery, a 10-week course which includes lectures and practicum. The goal is to learn about the Holy Spirit's charisms gifted to the Body of Christ and for participants to discover which charism(s) God is gifting to them. Find more information and registration at [archspm.org/school-of-charism-discovery](http://archspm.org/school-of-charism-discovery).

**Faith Formation Update:**

**We are once again asking for your generous support and participation in our STBAFF Sponsorship program. Your support helps us to continue many of our extra activities that give back to both the community and our Faith Formation students. The Forms can be found in the back of both churches and can be returned to either Kara or Julie, or the Ascension Parish Office. Thank you for your continued generous support of STBAFF.**

**Church of Ascension**

**Ascension Weekly Collection Report**

Totals as of 12/15/2024

Weekly Operating Budget:	\$ 3,101.92
Weekly Envelopes/Plate:	2,846.00
Weekly E-Giving:	1,005.00
Collections Budget YTD:	74,446.08
Actual Collection YTD:	\$ 73,583.40
Total Collected Over (Under) YTD:	(862.68)
Capital Improvement Offering:	630.00
Capital Improvement-E-Giving:	50.00
Capital Improvement YTD:	\$ 6,515.00



Interested in signing up for E-Giving or want to make a one time donation? Scan here to donate to the Church of the Ascension. Thank you for your generosity!

**The Ascension KC's will be having their Membership Drive on Sunday January 5th! Stop down in the Social Hall for Donut Sunday and find out more about being a KC! There will be information and members to answer any questions! Hope to see you there!**

**Church of St. Bernard**

**St. Bernard Stewardship of Treasure**

Budget for week	3,364.60
Contributions 12-11 through 12-17-2024	16,304.00
Total Actual Collection YTD	91,214.75
Total Actual Collection Over (Under) Budget	12,075.43
Forward in Faith	
Envelope Income	50.00
Electronic Donations	100.00
Forward in Faith Total	150.00
Forward in Faith YTD	8,687.50



Interested in signing up for E-Giving or want to make a one time donation? Scan here to donate to the Church of St. Bernard. Thank you for your generosity!

**Thank You** to all who donated items to the **Mitten Tree**. The following collection of items were taken to the Southwest Carver County Food shelf. Children's coats = 6; Adult coats = 4; Knit Hats = 41; Caps = 4; Cap & Glove set = 1; gloves = 23; Head Bands = 5; Socks = 10 pair; scarf = 1.

**Urgently Needed**—A volunteer pianist/organist for St. Bernard is needed as a back up for our present pianist/organist. If you wish to volunteer for this position, please contact the Parish Office at 952-467-3351

**MORNING IS GOD'S WAY OF SAYING ONE MORE TIME. GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. TOUCH A HEART. ENCOURAGE A MIND, INSPIRE A SOUL AND ENJOY THE DAY. UNKNOWN**

## Mass Ministry Schedule—December 31 to January 5

Mass Ministry	Ascension Dec. 31st 6:15pm	St. Bernard Jan. 1st 8:00am	St. Bernard Sat. 5:00pm	Ascension Sun. 8:00am	St. Bernard Sun. 10:00am
<b>Sacristan</b>	Rita Fahey	Patricia Quinn	Doris Mielke	Kathy Kloempken	Patricia Quinn
<b>Servers</b>	Jayden Michels & Caleb Michels	Luke Allison & Volunteer	Ava Hanson & Lily Hanson	Lacey Buckentin & Callie Buckentin	Dan Worm & Emma Panning
<b>Reader</b>	Julie Gesinger	Julie Kleindl	Roger Storms	Jean Schmitz	Mary Sue Thaemert
<b>EMHC</b>	Cathleen Williams	Mary Meuwissen	Carol Hoen	Irene Yaeck	Pam Kunkel
<b>Ushers</b>	Steve Schrupp & Rich Ulrich	Dick Arnst & Bob Symanitz	Tom Dahl & Ralph Laumann	Justin Buckentin & Paul Lano	Leonard Hoen Jr. & Bob Symanitz
<b>Greeters</b>	Grace Cook	Andy Kleindl	Leon & Kay Trout	Janet Fahey	Casey Jones
<b>Homebound Ministers</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ann & Dave Dettmann	N/A

### Mass Times Intentions

Day	Date	Location	Intention
<b>Monday</b>	Dec. 30		<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Dec. 31 <b>6:15 pm</b>	Ascension	For the Whitaker Family
<b>Wednesday</b>	Jan. 1 <b>9:00 am</b>	St. Bernard	Mildred Paul † & Elvira Winkler †
<b>†Thursday</b>	Jan. 2 <b>8:00 am</b>	St. Bernard	John & Elizabeth Knauer ††
<b>Friday</b>	Jan. 3 <b>8:00 am</b>	Ascension	Mass of Reparation
<b>Saturday</b>	Jan. 4 <b>5:00 pm</b>	St. Bernard	Rita Peters † And All Parishioners
<b>Sunday</b>	Jan. 5 <b>8:00 am</b>	Ascension	Thomas L. Fahey †
<b>Sunday</b>	Jan. 5 <b>10:00 am</b>	St. Bernard	The Deceased members of the Bernard Mohrbacher Family

**Readings for the week of Dec. 29, 2024**  
**Sunday:** 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52  
**Monday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40  
**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18  
**Wednesday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3,5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21  
**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28  
**Friday:** 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42  
**Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

**Bulletin copy is due by Thursdays @ NOON for the bulletin two weekends out;**

St. Bernard copy must be emailed to: bulletin@st-bernard-cologne.org and pquinn55322@hotmail.com  
 Ascension copy must be emailed to: busadmin@ascensionnya.org.  
**All inserts and weekend Mass announcements** can be emailed or brought to the Parish office at St. Bernard or Ascension. **These are due Thursday of the weekend needed.**

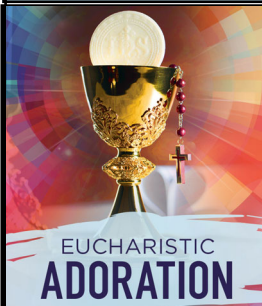
### SACRAMENTS

**Baptisms:** By appointment.  
**Marriage Arrangements**  
 The couple should contact the priest as soon as they become engaged. They must meet with the priest twice before setting a marriage date. These two meetings need to be completed 6 months before the proposed date.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
 Ascension: Tues. 5:45pm - 6:05pm  
 St. Bernard: Wed: 7:30am-7:50am  
 Saturday: 4:30pm—4:50pm  
 at parish hosting the Mass  
 By appointment with Father- Call 952-856-1050

**Communion for Homebound**  
 Ascension - Sue Tellers.....612-247-6881  
 St. Bernard - Barb Knorr.....952-484-9628

**Anointing of the Sick**  
 Call the parish office at any time.



**Eucharistic Adoration**  
**Ascension**  
 Every Tuesday  
 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm  
**St. Bernard**  
 Every Wednesday  
 2:00 until 6:00 pm

### December 29, 2024 The Holy Family

As a first-time pastor in a parish, I received a phone call one afternoon from a young married couple, “Father, our 2-year-old son drowned in our pool this morning. We are at the hospital. Please help us.” I sped over. The little boy was gone, his body cold, slightly blue, laid out on a bed. His parents were distraught and in shock. For the next few years, I walked with the couple along their difficult and painful road. They openly shared with me how they were often tempted to blame and accuse each other for the loss. And yet, by God’s grace, their love for each grew stronger and deeper as the years went by.

The Holy Family was not without its pain and loss, either. Luke tells us, after losing their twelve-year-old son, Joseph and Mary “**after three days found him in the temple area, sitting among the teachers...**” (Luke 2:46). We don’t know specifically what those three days were like for them except for what Mary says: “**Your father and I have been looking for you anxiously.**” The three days of his absence foreshadow his death and burial. His finding in the temple is a kind of resurrection for his family. They had to learn, again and again, that their family was becoming a place where death and resurrection was not only accepted but welcomed and celebrated. But surely they deeply felt the dangerous agony of their loss — just like every couple who has lost a child.

What losses in your experience of family still cause you anxiety? In what ways has God’s presence seemingly vanished in your family? Will you keep searching for Jesus? Remember, he will rise and be found. Your family may be suffering, but when he is found, it will be stronger than ever before. — *Father John Muir*